

CAPSULE SUMMARY - ALLEN BARN 'A' (CT-1042)

Spider Hall or Allen Barn 'A' is the oldest barn among a complex of buildings which includes a late 19th-20th century farmhouse, four tobacco barns, three sheds and two silos. The barn is privately owned and tobacco is no longer cured in it. Allen Barn 'A' measures 28 x 24 feet with a cross-axial plan, and has three sheds. Hewn timbers and machine-cut nails date the original section to the period prior to the Civil War. After 1880 sheds were added to the north and south to expand the barn's curing capacity. Finally, a vehicle storage shed/aisle was added to the east side of the barn.

Allen Barn 'A' squarish measurements and short vertical tobacco tier pole distance suggest a date of construction in the second quarter of the 19th century with later changes and modifications chronicling changing ownership and farm practices.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Allen Barn A

2. Location

3915
street & number Hallowing Pt. Rd. ☐ not for publication

city, town Barstow ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. Edward Allen

Spider Hall Farm
street & number 3915 Hallowing Pt. Rd. telephone no.: 535-5980

city, town Barstow state and zip code MD 20610

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber JLB 129

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio 31

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING
COURT HOUSE

city, town PRINCE FREDERICK, MD. 20678

state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1042

Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☐ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See Attachment.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1042

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Attachment.

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1042

There are a total of four barns on Spider Hall farm. The barn at the bottom of the hill (Allen Barn A) is the oldest structure in the complex. It is on the north side of the farm road. The other barns are also along the same farm road on either side of the hill. As one ascends the hill towards the nineteenth-century farm house, the barns become more recent in date. Allen barn A measures twenty-eight by twenty-four feet and has three sheds around it. Its plan is cross-axial. Hewn timbers and fully mature machine cut nails are prominent in its construction.

The plan is cross-axial with doors centered along each wall of the barn. There are also entrances on the north, south, and east sheds. The bays consist of two six-foot bays followed by one four foot doorway, followed by another two six-foot bays. The doors that originally were in place on the north, south, and east sides of the barn now have only pintel holes remaining to indicate their previous locations. The barn contains seven rooms.

Large mortared fieldstone piers support the heavy timber frame of the structure. The posts are hewn, are joined via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels to the sill, and are nailed to the top plate. The down braces are also hewn, and joined via half-dovetail notches to the sill. Fully mature machine cut nails are most evident. The barn has no cross sill, but rather there are upbraces from the door posts to the third tiebeam from the west. The horizontal nailing rails are circular sawn and appear to be primarily replacements. The siding is vertical and there are no empty stud mortises in the original sill to indicate that horizontal siding was ever in place. There are side-hinged ventilation doors every five feet. The roof was once entirely shingled. The shingles are still extant on the north portion the barn, but have been removed elsewhere. The roof is now covered with metal elsewhere. Rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. The plate is a circular sawn replacement. There are no windbraces, and only three collars serve to support the roof. The tier poles are peeled logs, separated by a three foot vertical distance. Peeled logs run down the central axis and are half-lapped and nailed to the tie beams with cut nails. There is a portion of an old prize in the barn (Mr. Allen states it was brought here from their farm in Prince George's County in 1955).

There are three sheds, located on the south, north and east sides of the barn. They are all of earth-fast post construction with circular sawn lumber and wire nails. The east shed is a twelve-foot wide vehicle storage shed with a large wide driveway. The roofs on all sheds are metal. The fourteen foot wide north and south sheds were probably added prior to the east shed. The primary purpose of the north and south sheds was tobacco curing.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1042

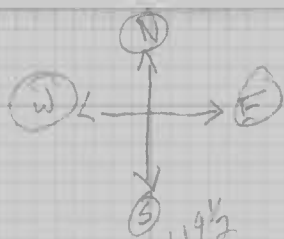
Allen barn A belongs to the ante-bellum period of tobacco barn construction in Southern Maryland. Its hewn timbers and fully mature machine-cut nails date it to the period between 1830 and 1860. The squarish twenty-eight by twenty-four foot measurements of the Allen barn are somewhat unusual. This square form is seen more often in even older barns. In addition the three foot vertical distance between tobacco tiers is indicative of the age of the barn. As fertilizers and cultivation methods improved, tobacco grew larger and the spacing between tier poles was increased.

This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to its cultivation than for both of the next most extensive farm products (corn and wheat). The barns and stripping houses related to this "Tobacco Culture" are widely recognized as the most common element on the rural landscape. These structures are also the most threatened, as the market for tobacco declines. They seem to have, at present, only limited capabilities for re-use. Many barns and stripping houses now stand empty. The purpose of this survey has been to gather information and document a wide sample of these structures before they disappear from the landscape.

Historic Period/theme(s): 1830-1860; Tobacco, Agriculture
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1830-1860
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

The twenty-eight by twenty-four foot tobacco barn built during the period from 1830-1860 was expanded after 1890 by adding sheds to the north and south. A vehicle drive-through equipment shed was added to the east at an even later date. The doors of the original barn were removed over the years, with the exception of the still-exposed western door. The shingle roof over the barn was replaced by metal on the south side. The barn is no longer used for tobacco but primarily as a storage area.

3/6/98 ALLEN BARN #2015
CT-1042



$\frac{1}{2} \times W \text{ side beam + stock}$
 $\frac{1}{2} \times E \text{ side beam + stock}$
 $\frac{1}{2} \times E \text{ side stock}$

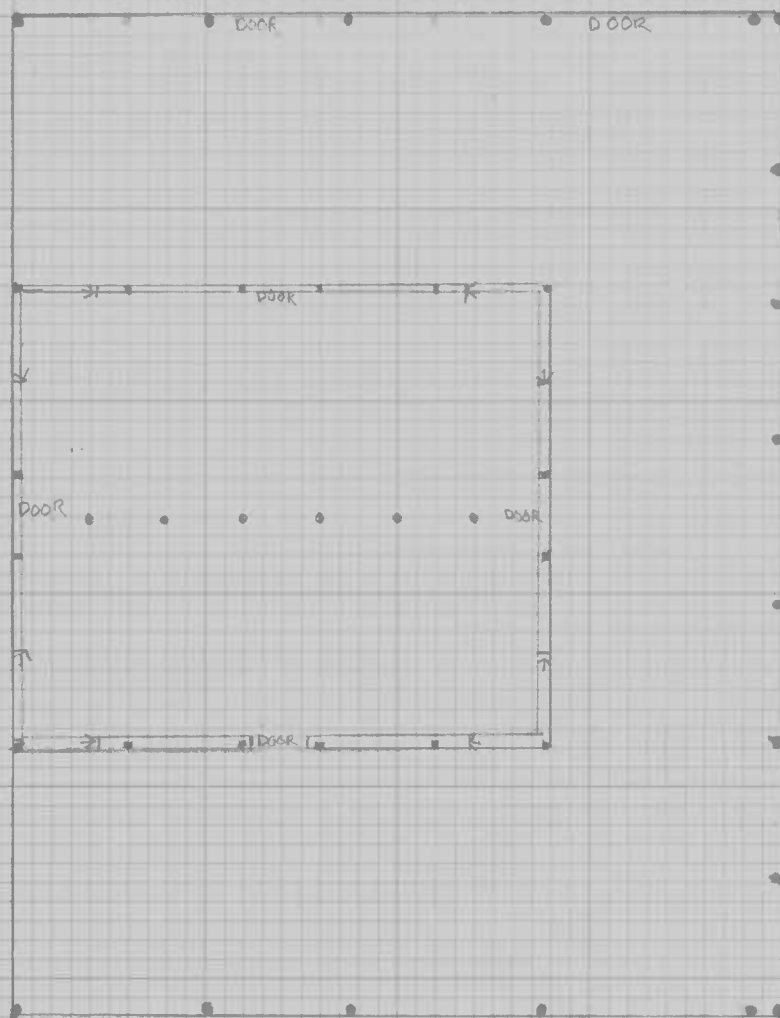
(Handwritten notes on lined paper)

X 07½
X 11½
X 14°
X 179½
X 111°
X 160½
X 120°
X 124½

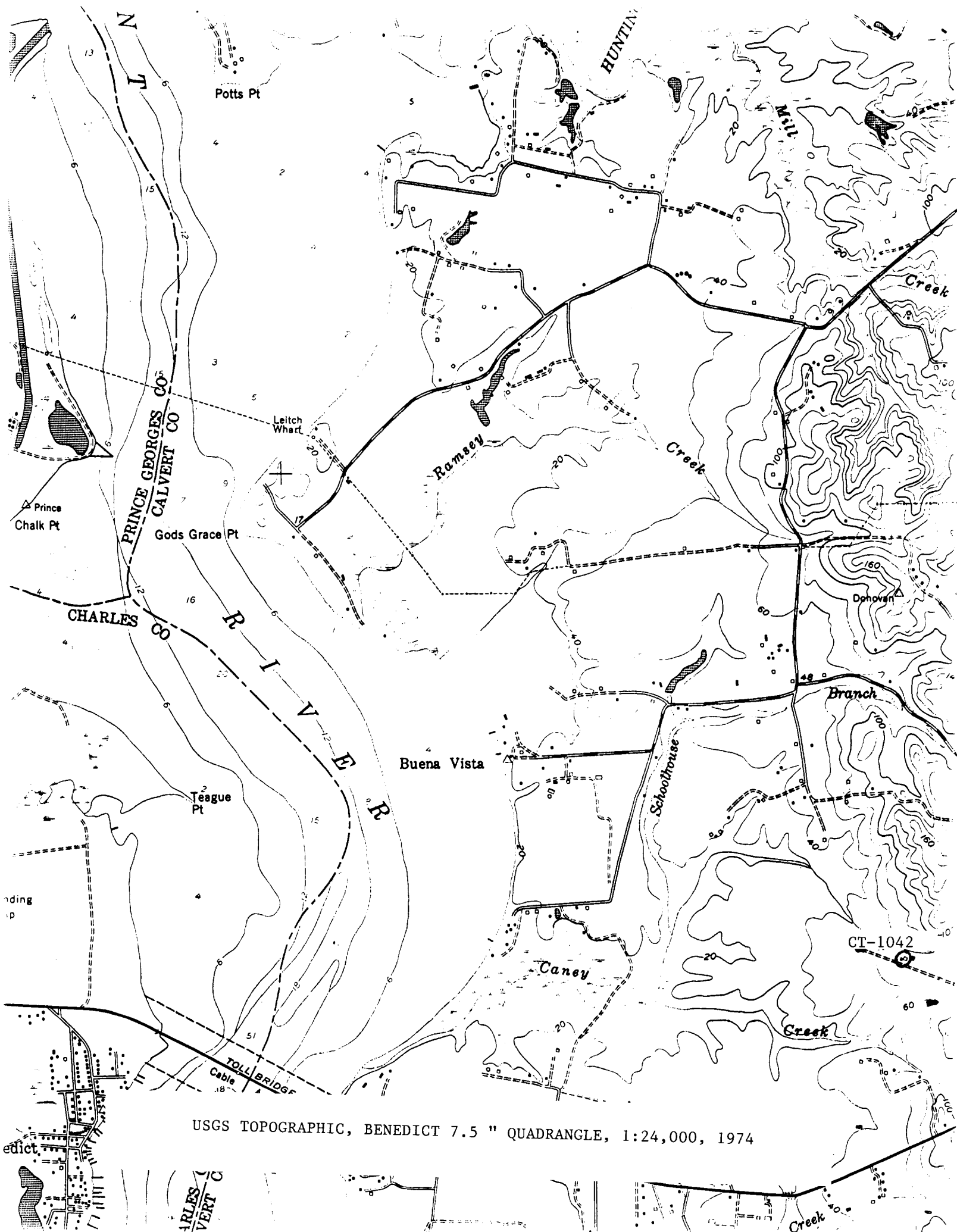
⑤ 119½
16'
108'
175½
176½
160½
120'

163½
229
278½
138²

X N side barn
X S side barn Stone wall
X 137' x 37' X 40' N side shed
X S side shed
X poles



$$\begin{array}{r} 52 \\ \times 1512 \\ \hline 104 \\ 768 \\ 768 \\ 768 \\ \hline 78624 \end{array}$$



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, BENEDICT 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1974



CT- 1042 Allen Road "A"

Prince Frederick

Tova L. Wilkerson

North east

March, 1970